

**CHILDREN
NEED A LOVING HOME
SHARE YOURS**



BECOME A FOSTER PARENT

State of Michigan
Department of Human Services

POSITION TITLE: FOSTER PARENT

I. QUALIFICATIONS:

- A. Experience working with or raising children.
- B. Must meet licensing rules and regulations set by the State of Michigan and those set by the licensing agency.

II. PRIMARY PURPOSE OF POSITION:

- A. To provide **substitute temporary** care for a child while working with the agency to help reunite the child with the birth family or relatives.
- B. To work as a team member with the agency in order to help the child heal his/her relationship with the birth parents, siblings, other family members and/or significant others.
- C. To provide a home environment with opportunities for educational, recreational, social and if appropriate religious experiences.
- D. To help prepare the child for placement in an adoptive home when return to the birth family is determined not to be appropriate.

III. KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS REQUIRED:

- A. Knowledge of child development, acquired through experience and education.
- B. Ability to organize and use good judgement in order to provide effective services to foster children and birth families.
- C. Ability to work cooperatively with other professionals, other agencies, and other foster parents.

IV. SIGNIFICANT DUTIES OF POSITION:

A. Responsibilities to Child:

- 1. Provide 24 hour supervision including basic needs of food, shelter and clothing.

2. Medical Care
 - a. Takes child to and from appointments, unless other arrangements have been made.
 - b. Sees that the child receives routine, or emergency medical treatment.
 - c. Notifies the agency of the results of routine exams or emergency treatment.
 - d. Keeps a medical record for each youth in care.
3. Education
 - a. Enrolls child in school or a vocational program, after consulting with the foster care worker.
 - b. Sees that the child attends school.
 - c. Talks to teachers and/or principals at the time of enrollment. Attends scheduled conferences or disciplinary meetings.
 - d. Notifies and/or consults with the foster care worker regarding problems or successes in school.
4. Appropriate Discipline:
 - a. Views discipline as a tool to help the child learn right from wrong.
 - b. Protects the child from any abuse. This means no corporal punishment and protection against any sexual, physical or verbal abuse.
 - c. Rewards positive behavior.
 - d. Keeps the agency informed of any recurring discipline problems, and agrees to work with agency staff in developing behavioral plans for the youth.
5. Improving Child's Self-Image By:
 - a. Listening to the child.
 - b. Talking with the child.
 - c. Showing affection for the child verbally and physically.
 - d. Encouraging child to express emotions.

B. Responsibilities to Birth Parents:

1. Cooperates with agency regarding Parenting Time with the birth parents, relatives and/or significant others.
2. Being supportive, not critical, of birth parents.

C. Responsibilities to Agency:

1. Functioning as much as possible as a team by:
 - a. Keeping the foster care worker informed of the child's progress or any anticipated problems and/or issues.
 - b. Expressing ideas regarding policies, practices, problems and/or suggestions for change, at foster parent meetings.
2. Participate in on-going education for the purpose of increasing skills and knowledge of child development, child management and foster care dynamics.
 - a. Must attend all required agency meetings.
 - b. Must participate in on-going training.

V. BENEFITS:

- A. The knowledge that you have helped a child and his family in a time of crisis.
- B. The making of new friends and the fellowship with others.
- C. The improvement of your own self image.
- D. The opportunity to participate in foster parent appreciation and celebration activities (i.e. dinner, party, etc.)
- E. The acquisition of certificates and letters of appreciation.
- F. The improvement of parenting skills and the mastery of new skills as a foster parent.
- G. The pre-service, on-going training and other educational opportunities.

FACT SHEET FOR LICENSING

AGE:	18 - 65 Years Old.
MARITAL STATUS:	Married or Single.
INCOME/EMPLOYMENT:	One or both parents may work; must have adequate child care plan. Income must be adequate to meet own family needs. FIP recipients can be considered.
HOUSING:	May own or rent. Adequate bedroom space (40 sq. feet per child). Home must be free from health and fire hazards. Must have safe play area for children. Must have telephone.
HEALTH:	Medical examination for each household member.
REFERENCES:	Three (3) written character references.
GOOD MORAL CHARACTER:	Police record check. Abuse/Neglect Record Check. Previous Licensing Record Check.
HOMESTUDY:	The homestudy serves as a placement guide for the worker and an educational tool for the family. On-site visit interview with all family members.
TRAINING:	<p>The process whereby agencies provide initial and on-going education in the areas of behavioral, emotional and physical needs of children, child management techniques, rights and responsibilities of the agency and foster parents, etc.</p> <p>It is expected that applicants as well as licensed foster parents attend all required training.</p>

FOSTER CARE VOCABULARY

FOSTER HOME:	By law, a private home in which 1 to 4 minor children who are not related to the adults in the household receive care and supervision, 24 hours a day; care ends when the child is returned home, adopted, transferred to another residence or becomes independent.
MEDICAID:	A comprehensive state health insurance program that covers, to varying degrees, the costs of office visits, surgeries, medical appliances, dental psychiatric psychological services and prescriptions.
PERMANENT COURT WARD: (MCI)	A child whose parent's rights have been terminated by a court of law or whose parents have voluntarily relinquished their rights, making the court/state the child's legal guardian. These children are available for adoption.
TEMPORARY COURT WARD:	A child whose parent's rights have not been terminated but who has been placed under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court. These children are not available for adoption.
BASIC RATES:	Foster care payments are determined by the Department of Human Services.

QUANTITY: 5,000
COST: \$995.23 (.199 each)
AUTHORITY: DHS Director

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